



Private School Newsletter | December 2020

FDOE Issues Emergency Order Regarding Spring Educational Options

The Florida Association of District School Superintendents and the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) issued Emergency Order 2020 - EO – 07, which extends online learning and maintains the assurances outlined in [EO-06](#) for the upcoming Spring semester. Students who are doing remote learning will be able to continue their remote learning in the second semester of this school year, if they choose. The new order maintains a parent’s right to choose what educational option best fits the needs of their family, and provides innovative learning options benefiting students, families and school employees. The new order guarantees full services for at-risk students, and progress monitoring for all students. EO-07 requires educational interventions for students who may be at-risk or falling behind, and rewards school districts and charter schools that have exceeded their projected goals. Schools will be required to file intervention plans by Dec. 15 that detail how they will deal with students learning online who are failing courses, and to notify parents if those children are not making educational progress. Public schools will still be required to provide in-person instruction. To view all details of the new order, click [here](#).

Scholarship Program Compliance Renewal

The 2021-22 Compliance season is underway! Private schools currently participating in the state scholarship programs must renew their participation annually by submitting verification of their compliance with program requirements. For existing schools, the 2021-22 Scholarship Compliance Form packet must be submitted online and also **printed, signed, notarized and a hardcopy must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2021**. Any outstanding issues must be resolved on or before May 1, 2021 in order for the school to remain eligible to participate in the state scholarship programs for the next school year. Information on the renewal process is available on our website at www.floridaschoolchoice.org. After logging in, you will find our Application and Renewal Instruction Packet under the Scholarship Programs section of the left hand menu. Additional resources are available online through the **Compliance Training link in the Compliance Resources** section. Private schools that wish to participate in state scholarship programs for the first time do not have to meet the March 1 deadline. New private schools must submit a signed and notarized Scholarship Compliance Form no later than October 1, 2021 and all outstanding compliance issues are to be resolved by December 1, 2021. A School that fails to meet either of these deadlines may not participate in the scholarship program until the subsequent school year.



NASA Moon Pod Essay Contest

On Sept. 15, 2020, NASA, in partnership with Future Engineers, launched the [Artemis Moon Pod Essay Contest](#). The contest, which is open to all (public, private, and home school) students in grades K-12, asks participants to imagine they are leading a one-week expedition to the Moon's South Pole. In the essay, students will need to describe to NASA what (and who) they would bring to help make their expedition a success. Every student who submits an entry will receive a certificate from NASA and be invited to a special NASA virtual event – with an astronaut! Selected semifinalists will be invited to represent their state or territory in a series of Artemis Explorer sessions with NASA experts. Finalists will travel with a parent to NASA's Johnson Space Center in 2021 to learn about lunar exploration. The national winner in each grade division will win a family trip Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, and watch the most powerful rocket in the world launch. Essays must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM PS on **Dec. 17, 2020**. For more information about the essay contest, including the requirements and who can enter, visit the Moon Pod Essay Contest [website](#).

Apply to be a School Ambassador

We encourage Private school professionals to apply for the U.S. Department of Education's [School Ambassador Fellow](#) program. The School Ambassador Fellowship program is a year-long program for learning professionals; designed to teach school-based professionals skills and expertise to better improve educational outcomes, as well as, inform these individuals about national education initiatives. Fellows have the opportunity to interact with educators around the US, as well as, education professionals at the local, state, and national level. The deadline to apply for the 2021-2022 School Ambassador Fellowship is **Monday, January 11, 2021 at 11:59 PM Eastern**. For more information about the program and application, please click [here](#).

Additional Resources:

[Regional Managers](#), [McKay Calendar](#), [McKay Deadlines](#), [District Time Table](#)

Happy Holidays!!